

ARMY FLOW MODEL

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The Army Flow Model (AFM) is an HQDA knowledge management system that provides the Army staff with the capability to analyze and assess actual or notional policy decisions over time. The AFM's primary purpose is to provide an effective and efficient means to assess the feasibility, supportability, and affordability of current, programmed, and hypothetical HQDA initiatives, and their impact on force readiness over time. The AFM accomplishes this by transforming and integrating raw data into knowledge to aid senior decisionmakers in assessing policy decisions. The AFM provides an integrated cross-functional view of the Army and consists of an integrated database, a suite of functional models, and data output. The AFM is an Internet-based system that is easily accessed via the Web.

The AFM is built from an integrated database of approved data outputs collected from the functional areas of the Army. These data are processed and placed into a data warehouse of historical, current, and programmed information. The AFM system architecture allows it to easily integrate data from outside systems. The capability to accept and integrate data from legacy systems is one of the AFM's strongest assets. This system flexibility provides information dominance through the ease of linking and mining data.

The AFM maintains a suite of functional models in its integrated database. These functional models address force structure, logistics, personnel, stationing, and the budget. These models apply HQDA business rules to the integrated data to produce analytical intelligence from raw data. Each model is linked via the database to ensure that output and analysis are consistent across the system. A summary of each of the functional models follows.

The Force Structure Model's primary function is to maintain the historical, current, and projected HQDA-

approved locked force structure. These data form the baseline for force-structure assessments and the other functional models. Logistics and Personnel Model data are integrated to form a complete header file for the Force Structure Model across the Program Objective Memorandum years.

The Logistics Model's primary function is to project equipment distributions over a 10-year period and provide equipment on-hand readiness calculations at both the line item number and unit identification code levels. The Logistics Model identifies equipment shortfalls, provides equipment costs, and produces the HQDA Total Army Equipment Distribution Plan. The Logistics Model also maintains historical, current, and future readiness projections and distributions.

The Personnel Model is designed to project trained strength across the force structure. This model allocates projected strength by distribution management level and at unit level by military occupational specialty and grade. The model applies rotation, promotion, reclassification, conversion, separation, and accession policies and trends to the enlisted population for distribution across the force structure. The Personnel Model also maintains historical and current assigned projections.

The Stationing Model is used to assess stationing impact as a result of force structure and stationing changes. This model provides an installation view of the units, equipment, and personnel located at the base for all components. The stationing model also maintains historical and current data on installation readiness.

The Budget Model provides costs for equipment acquisitions and standup and shortage costs for equipment, and calculates destination costs associated with relocating resources.

Data in the AFM are viewed via the Internet. The AFM consists of a series of graphical user interfaces that produce tabular and graphical data repre-

sentations. The AFM can also be customized so that specialized views and Web pages can be created for the analyst to support specific studies.

The AFM directly supports numerous HQDA policy assessments. The AFM's ability to provide integrated data from across the functional areas of force structure, logistics, personnel, stationing, and budgeting make it the cornerstone from which the Army studies are based. The ability to integrate vast quantities of data and provide quick turnaround answers has greatly increased the accuracy and timeliness of the Army's critical assessments. These proven capabilities have made the AFM the Army's analytical model of choice.

The Army Flow Model is designed to be fully compatible with the current systems in use by the Army. The system provides on-screen tools that allow analysts to manipulate data directly from the model. However, data can be transferred directly to Microsoft Office applications for integration into briefing slides and action reports. Data management flexibility is a key capability of the AFM. The functional proponent for the AFM is the Director of Force Management, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. The technical proponent for the AFM is the Director of Information Systems for Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (DISC4).

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